

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (currently amended) An annular axial seal member having a generally "j" shaped cross-section and comprising a first end portion having a first distal end, a generally curled second end portion that extends to a second distal end, and a central body portion between and contiguous with said first and said second end portions, said annular sealing member axial seal having a first side and an opposite second side, said second end portion curling in a first direction in accordance with a predetermined radius such that said second distal end is located across from said first side of said annular axial seal member and said first and second distal ends do not face each other.

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (currently amended) The annular axial seal member according to claim 10 wherein said central body portion has a generally frustro-conical shape and has no inflection points.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The annular axial seal member according to claim 10 wherein said annular axial seal member is metallic.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The annular axial seal member according to claim 13 wherein said annular axial seal member is fabricated from a metal chosen from the group consisting of nickel super alloys and nickel cobalt alloys.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The annular axial seal member according to claim 10 wherein said annular axial seal member has a degree of resiliency.

Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (currently amended) An annular axial metallic seal member comprising:

a first side and an opposite second side;

a generally frustro-conical central body portion having opposite ends;

a first end portion contiguous with one of said opposite ends of said generally frustro-conical central body portion, said first end portion having a first distal end;

said central body having a thickness that tapers in the direction of said first distal end;

a generally curled second end portion contiguous with the other of said opposite ends of said generally frustro-conical central body portion, said second end portion extending to a second distal end; and

said second end portion curling in a first direction in accordance with a predetermined radius such that said second distal end is located across from said first side of said annular axial seal member and said first and second distal ends do not face each other[.] and

said first and second end portions and said central body being configured to provide said annular axial seal with a "j" shaped cross-section.

Claims 18-20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (currently amended) The annular axial metallic seal member according to claim 17 wherein said annular axial metallic seal member has a degree of resiliency.

Claims 22-30 (cancelled)